

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
June 17, in the year of our Lord 2020 – #841

Dad Lessons

With Father's Day this Sunday, I've been thinking about my Dad. I sure miss him. I can just imagine how thrilled he'd be with all the grands & greats & great greats! Dale Dentler was a great father, grandfather, husband, and follower of Jesus. I loved to listen to his stories. Driving a Model T truck from Pennsylvania to Florida (long before the days of Interstate-95!) to haul oranges back to PA from this uncles' orange groves. Designing a steam to diesel conversion that the U.S. military used to convert equipment in World War II. I could talk about all the things he taught me: working with tools both mechanical & wood, to love the church, to love God's Word, tithing, hard work and much more. But in this strange and unusual time in our country, and in my life, I'd like to reflect with you today on three lessons my Dad taught me that are bearing fruit, and so relevant, right now.

1. **Be an Overcomer** - When a tractor fell off a jack and smashed Dad's foot, the doctors wanted to amputate. Dad pleaded for them not to and then endured the long difficult & painful journey of rehabilitation. It left him with a bit of a limp but surely didn't slow him down! When he lost his business (not thru any fault of his own but because of some shady dealings by his partners) and nearly everything he owned, many men would have been defeated. Dad rebuilt his life and shaped a second very successful career. Life will ALWAYS throw problems & trials our way. Like the messes we are going thru right now. But the Lord will help us overcome and calls us all to be overcomers as we lean on Him!

"He who overcomes will ... be dressed in white. I will never erase his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and His angels." Revelation 3:5 NIV

2. **Honor Your Marriage Vows** – It's one thing on a bright and glorious wedding day to say, *"for better or worse, in sickness and in health,"* but years later when you find yourself in a caregiver role it can be hard! My Mother's heart issues started early and lasted a long time and took her so young. Dad was faithful in caring for Mom. I never heard him complain or fuss about being the caregiver. The Church is called *"the bride"* of Christ, and men are called to lay down our lives for our wives just as Christ laid down His life for His *"bride."*

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.” Ephesians 5:25 NIV

3. **Help the Weak** – Dad loved to help others. Starting a fire company from scratch for neighbors. Starting a fire police unit to give young men a place to stay out of trouble. Helping young prisoners who worked for him at the White Hill Prison (Camp Hill) to learn skills that could translate into work opportunities once they got out of prison. Serving on The Jacobs Brothers Quartet’s “Kings Kids Camp” board. Repairing the Jacob’s Brothers bus in our driveway. Carrying his tools during retirement winters in FL so he could help others repair their campers. Dad was always helping someone and especially those who needed help the most. In this time if we open our eyes and look around there are many who can use our help and encouragement.

“And we urge you, brothers, ... encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” 1 Thessalonians 5:14 NIV

As we celebrate our Fathers & Grandfathers... by blood and by spirit... reflect today on some life lessons you have learned from those Christian men who have shaped and touched your life, and give thanks to the Lord for their legacy... in you. If you are blessed to still have them with you, then make sure and bless them this Father’s Day!

Thanks Dad, for the many life lessons you taught me. I will always love you and be thankful for all you taught me. I miss you and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Remembering Dad, Pastor Larry <><